

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is filed in response to the office action mailed on May 9, 2003. In that office action, claims 7-9, 11-15, and 21-25 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-20 were initially rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Nishizawa (US patent 5,021,936). Claims 26-30 were allowed and claims 21-25 were indicated to be allowable by correcting the informalities.

CLAIMS 1-20

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer so that they may be pursued via a continuation application at a later time.

CLAIMS 21-30

Claims 21, 23, and 25 have been amended to correct the informalities indicated in the office action. The amendments to claims 21, 23, and 25 remove the use of the word "operable" and adds the word "configured" to positively recite the claims.

Claims 21, 23, and 26 have been amended to remove the numbers in parentheses in the claims. These numbers were left over from the PCT prosecution and are unnecessary.

The amendments are merely intended to clarify the claims and are not intended to narrow the claims in view of any of the cited references for example.

DRAWING ISSUES

New drawings 6-8 are hereby submitted along with copies showing the changes made. In accordance with PTO custom, these drawings have been labeled as "BACKGROUND" and the changes do not add any new matter.

Appl. No. 09/937,680
Amdt. dated November 10, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2003

PATENT

EXTENSION OF TIME

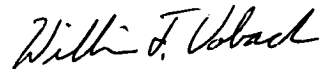
Included with this Amendment is a Request for a Three Month Extension of Time. This extension of time should include the time period through November 10, 2003, since November 9, 2003 fell on a Sunday.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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